

# American Hungarian educator

NEWSLETTER

of the

American  
Hungarian  
Educators'  
Association

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Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://magyar.org> and send any suggestions you have to the Executive Director at [eniko@ex-pressnet.com](mailto:eniko@ex-pressnet.com), or P.O. Box 30288, Bethesda, MD 20824-0288

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the American Hungarian Educators' Association was held at John Carroll University, Ohio, April 8-11, 1999. The theme of the conference, "Memory, Culture, and Identity: the Hungarian Global Village at the End of the Millennium," allowed for a wide range of topics to be discussed. Professor Martha Pereszlényi-Pintér organized the event with the assistance of Professor Katherine Gatto. Prof. Pereszlényi-Pintér is the President of the Association. The conference heard sixty presentations in twenty sections. The topics ranged from history and literature to ethnography, pedagogy, linguistics, and sociology.

Special sections dealt with the education of Hungarian students outside of Hungary. With the help of the Anyanyelvi Konferencia –the International Association of Hungarian Language and Culture–three educators were invited to offer status reports of their country's Hungarian educational situation. Ildikó Orosz, President of the Carpatho-Ukrainian Hungarian Educators Association, Tibor Beder, Chief Superintendent of Education in Hargita County, Romania, and Zoltán Sidó, President of the Hungarian Educators Association of Slovakia. Hungarian language instruction and cultural maintenance in the U.S. and in Canada was discussed in numerous presentations.

At the close of the conference, a document was approved outlining practical plans for future

cooperation between the American Hungarian Educators Association and the groups in Slovakia, Carpatho-Ukraine and Transylvania. The agreement calls for cooperation between the AHEA and the Kárpátaljai Magyar Pedagógusszövetség, the Szlovákia Magyar Pedagógusok Szövetsége, and the Romániai Magyar Pedagógusok Szövetsége. In view of this, they will send to each other their publications and information about their programs, and will seek to keep in touch through all of the means of modern communication. They also undertake to invite each other to their conferences, programs, professional meetings, etc. In international fora, such as the Anyanyelvi Konferencia, Magyarok Világszövetsége, Nemzetközi Magyar Filológiai Társaság, they will support programs and financing to further the aims of the pedagogical associations. Exchanges at both the school and the family level of students is encouraged, and mutual aid will be extended to assist the schools in these organizations in obtaining books, teachers, and teaching aids, e.g. computers, scholarships, etc.

John Carroll University and the city of Cleveland made the Association welcome by hosting numerous events, from the welcome program hosted by the President of the University and featuring August B. Pust, Director, Ohio Intercultural Affairs and Multicultural Programs. Rev. John Ádám, S.J. Provincial of the Hungarian Province gave the address. A message by Géza

Jeszenszky, the Hungarian Ambassador to Washington, was read by the Cultural Attaché in the absence of the Ambassador. Ambassador Jeszenszky, a member of the AHEA when he was a Fulbright professor at Santa Barbara, sent warm wishes to the Association which recalled his days before becoming a politician.

A musical presentation rounded out the program. An evening banquet at the Budapest Hungarian Restaurant completed the social events of the program. Papers presented at the conference may be published in a *Proceedings* volume. Manuscripts were requested by Sept. 1, and depending on response, the volume may be out shortly.



### Report on the Business Meeting

The Business Meeting of the AHEA was held on Saturday morning. In the absence of the Secretary, Enikő M. Basa, Executive Director, gave a report on the activities of the Association. The financial report, given by Enikő M. Basa, indicated a balance of \$2,251.70 in the checking account, \$1,108.53 in the savings account. The CD's total \$4,838.01. The Marai Foundation in Slovakia and the Romániai Magyar Pedagógus Szövetség each received \$200.00 for scholarships in 1998. A curatorium has been set up in Transylvania to advertise and award the scholarship. Awardees have to be engaged in a course of study that will advance the maintenance of Hungarian heritage in the area, and are expected to remain within their own countries upon completion of their studies. Contributions to the fund are encouraged; checks should be sent to the AHEA Executive Director with a note in the memo area to indicate the purpose.

Peter and Enikő M. Basa have continued to represent the AHEA. Enikő is on the Board of the Library of Congress-Soros Fellows and has continued the programs she had initiated (lunches, presentations, meetings). The Fellows were invited to the Basas for meals or weekends, and also to the ocean for a weekend. In addition to the Soros Fellows, Fulbright Scholars and Freedom House/National Forum Foundation Fellows continue to receive home hospitality, VIP tours of the Library of Congress, and other assistance.

The semi-annual picnic for Hungarian students and young professionals continues to enjoy success. Begun under AHEA sponsorship, it is now organized and funded by the participants. The emphasis is on fun and networking, but there is also a chance to meet with diplomats and Hungarian embassy staff in an informal setting.

Béla J. Bognar has initiated a scholarship program at Wright State University. Members are encouraged to look at the description in the Newsletter and to contact Béla Bognár for more information and donations if you wish to help. The scholarship is designed to assist persons of Hungarian background and is certainly a cause the AHEA wishes to endorse.

Amadeo di Francesco of the Istituto Universitario Orientale in Naples, currently president of the Association of Hungarian Studies, invites all AHEA members to the meeting of this body in 2001 in Finland. For more information, write to: Nemzetközi Magyar Filológiai Társaság, Hungarológia 2001, Jyväskylä yliopisto, PL35-A, FIN-40351 Finland or e-mail: hungkong@cc.jyu.fi. You may also visit the web site at: [www.jyu.fi/hungkong](http://www.jyu.fi/hungkong) for information.

#### Miscellaneous News

Indiana University's Hungarian Chair organized a symposium on April 17, 1999 about Hungary's Euro-Atlantic integration. **Toivo U. Raun**, Chair of the Central Eurasian Dept. and **János Mazsú**, the Hungarian Chair Professor opened the program. The morning session's presenters were **Géza Jeszenszky**, historian, Hungarian Ambassador to the USA, **József Szajer MP**, Chairman of the European Integration Committee, **Ferenc Koszorús**, Chairman of the American Hungarian Federation of Washington, and **Paul Marer**, economics professor at Indiana. The afternoon topics were discussed by **Mihály Szegedy-Maszák**, professor of literature at Eötvös Loránd University and at Indiana, **Károly Nagy**, professor of sociology at Middlesex County College and at Rutgers University, and **Ádám Makkai**, professor of linguistics at the University of Chicago Circle.

**Béla Bognár** presented his proposal to support Hungarian Students through the establishment of a scholarship fund. He has established a fund at Wright State University and donations to this are encouraged. He covered the groundwork for establishing such a fund at the meeting, including fundraising methods and strategies for approaching your own administrations. There are very few scholarships for Hungarian students, yet millions of scholarship funds go unclaimed each year. Béla Bognár's suggestions are invaluable, and while only one model among many, members are urged to investigate it. To send donations to the fund established at Wright State, or for more information, please contact Béla at: Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001

**Árpád Göncz** has responded to a letter from **Enikő M. Basa** which addressed the brain drain problem. While the number of young Hungarians studying or working in the US and Canada (as well as other Western nations) is in many ways a very positive sign, their eventual return to Hungary is what would give the country its greatest boost. Many US programs recognize this, and make return for a few years mandatory. However, it is not the forced return that is of most benefit. Hungarian students and professionals should be encouraged to return because the opportunities at home are such that they can use their talents and knowledge to best advantage. Such talent and knowledge should also be recognized by the country and enable them to move into the kind of positions which they have a chance for here. In response to a specific proposal, **Norbert Kroó** of the Ministry of Education has responded that he is interested, particularly in the "job fair" portion of our proposal. While it is true that the work of Hungarian professionals abroad is in many ways helpful to Hungary itself, it is time that the same sort of encouragement which other countries give to their nationals is also encouraged in Hungary. We will investigate the possibilities further, and keep you posted on developments. The *unicum* will carry news as well as the AHEA newsletter and home page. If you have an address that will reach many students, please sent it to the Secretariat.

Hungarian studies at **Rutgers University** continue to be supported by the **Magyar Öregdiák Szövetség--Bessenyei György Kör**. This year, visiting instructors from Hungary have a total of fifty students in four classes and independent studies. **Dr. Judith Hajnal**, of the Medical University of Debrecen and its Summer University is teaching beginning, intermediate and advanced Hungarian. **Miklós Molnár**, Fulbright professor from the Eötvös Loránd University is visiting professor at the Dept. of Communications at Rutgers and teaches courses on Hungarian media and film in English. The Hungarian Institute is under the directorship of **József Böröcz**, who mentioned that talks might soon begin on the renewal and extension of the agreement between

the Hungarian cultural ministries and Rutgers which had established the Institute .  
Future programs of the Association were announced by the President, Károly Nagy. Miklós Kontra will talk on the linguistic rights of Central European minorities in October, and in November Ambassador Géza Jeszenszky will give a commemorative lecture on the Revolution of 1956.

**C**onference 2000 is well underway. The dates are May 24-27 at the Kulturinóvot Hotel, Szentháromág tér 6, Budapest. Some sessions will be held in the Történettudományi Intézet, (Úri u. 3) also in the Castle District. Organizer Peter Pastor suggested: Hungarian-North American Themes. A call for papers is enclosed in the newsletter, and information on special flights as well as favorable hotel rates will be furnished later. We hope to involve not only members, but also teachers from the neighboring countries and so foster more communication between them and us. Priority will be given to AHEA members in the presentation of papers, although we hope to attract colleagues both from Hungary and the neighboring states. We should have some support from the Anyanyelvi Konferencia in enabling colleagues from Hungary's successor states to attend. We will certainly have support from universities and institutes of the MTA.. Prominent Hungarian scholars will be invited to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Conference with us also. See call for papers on separate enclosed flyer.

#### Scholarship News

**T**he Scholarship Fund has sent to schools in Slovakia and Transylvania its second round of support. In Slovakia, the Márjai Sándor Foundation administers the grant and gives it to a student whose studies are designed to foster the maintenance of Hungarian culture and language in the area. In Transylvania, the award is administered by a committee appointed by the Romániai Magyar Pedagógusszövetség. The recipients were Agnes Bálint at the Babes-Bolyai University in Fine Arts and Banka Bőjte at the Spiru Haret University in Brasso in economics.

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#### Nyugati, Kisebbségi Pedagógusok Együttműködése

**Amerikiai Magyar Tanárok Egyesülete (American Hungarian Educators Association) 24. Konferencia,**  
John Carroll University, Ohio, 1999 április 8-11

**Együttműködési megállapodás** a Magyarország határain kívül élő magyar tömbök, szigetek és szórványok számára helyenként egyre nehezebb feladat, egyre súlyosbodó gond és felelősség a magyar nyelv és kultúra oktatása.

Az Amerikai Magyar Tanárok Egyesülete, a Kárpátaljai Magyar Pedagógusszövetség, a Szlovákiai Magyar Pedagógusok Szövetsége és a Romániai Magyar Pedagógusszövetség együttműködési megállapodást köt egymás munkássága kölcsönös, folyamatos és hatásos támogatására.

#### **I. Kommunikáció**

1. Rendszeresen elküldjük egymásnak a kiadványainkat: tájékoztatóinkat, összejöveteleink, rendezvényeink, programjaink meghívót, értesítőit, jegyzőkönyveit, folyóatainkat, könyveinket, taneszközeinket.
2. Levelezés, telefon, fax- e-pósta útján állandó kapcsolatot tartunk fenn tisztviselőink, megbízottaink között.
3. Tagjaink kapcsolattartása elősegítésére eljuttatjuk egymásnak tagsági cím-, telefon-, fax és e-pósta jegyzékünket.

#### **II. Szakmai összejövetelek**

1. Meghívjuk egymást időszaki konferenciáinkra, szakmai összejöveteleinkre, tanfolyamainkra, találkozóinkra,

programjainkra, egyéni előadások tartására.

2. Nemzetközi szervezeteink keretében—pl. Anyanyelvi Konferencia-A magyar Nyelv és Kultúra Nemzetközi Társasága, Magyarok Világszövetsége, Nemzetközi Magyar Filológiai Társaság, Magyar Reformátusok Világszövetsége, stb.—tanáregyesületeink gondjait, témáit tárgyaló műhelyeket, konferencia ülszakokat, valamint a magyar nyelv és kultúra oktatását elősegítő költségvetési programokat indítványozunk, szervezünk, támogatunk.

### III. Testvériskolák-cserediákok

1. Iskoláink között testvériskola kapcsolatok létesítését, fenntartását segítjük elő, gondozzuk.
2. Családok kölcsönös cserediák-meghívását segítjük elő, gondozzuk.

### IV. Jogérvényesítés, segély

1. Támogatjuk egymás törekvéseit annak érdekében, hogy országainkban az egyetemes emberi jogok egyikeként érvényesüljön a magyar nyelv és kultúra oktatásának és művelésének lehetősége és támogatottsága.
2. Segítjük egymás iskoláit, főiskoláit, könyvtárait, pedagógusait és tanulóit a szükségleteknek és a lehetőségeknek megfelelő módon és eszközökkel, pl. könyvekkel, számítógépekkel, ösztöndíjakkal és egyéb juttatásokkal.

Pereszlényi Pintér Márta, az Amerikai Magyar Tanárok Egyesülete (American Hungarian Educators Association) elnöke

Orosz Ildikó, a Kárpátaljai Magyar Pedagógusszövetség elnöke

Beder Tibor, Hargita megye főtanfelügyelője

Sidó Zoltán, a Szlovákiai Magyar Pedagógusok Szövetsége elnöke

*The American Hungarian Educators Association thanks Árpád Kovács  
for mounting and maintaining our web page*

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### AHEA Membership Form/Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send their 1999/2000 dues promptly. The date on your mailing label indicates the year we last received dues from you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: (give preferred mailing address here) \_\_\_\_\_

Business phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Institutional affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: Regular members: \$15.00 Couples/Joint members: \$20.00 Students/Retired: \$10.00  
Make checks payable to: AHEA Treasurer and send to AHEA, P.O. Box 30288, Bethesda, MD 20824-0288

Please clip or copy and return to the Secretariat with the appropriate amount.

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**SUBSCRIPTION (USA):** Nonmembers may receive the newsletter for \$5.00 annual fee. **FREE** to members of AHEA and officers of the affiliates. Send subscription inquiries, address changes and all correspondence to Enikó Molnár Basa, P.O. Box 30288, Bethesda, MD 20824-0288

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